

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A life sciences laboratory system, comprising:
 - at least one networked computer system that defines a virtual research environment accessible to a user through a portal associated with said networked computer system, said system providing a workspace wherein the user can store and organize information relating to life sciences research;
 - said virtual research environment having a data coupling mechanism by which the user designates a set of user-specified data for bioinformatics processing;
 - said networked computer system including at least one processor to perform bioinformatics services upon said user-specified data;
 - a catalog of life sciences related assay kits linked in memory to related portions of genomic data; and
 - a purchasing subsystem presenting portions of said catalog to the user users for potential purchase of assay kits identified as a result of access by the user users of correspondingly related portions of genomic data; and
 - a workflow system operable to allow the user to prescribe and track the performance of a series of steps associated with the user's life sciences research.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an index that organizes said life sciences information into hierarchical levels and defines links among related information across said hierarchical levels.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a virtual laboratory equipment interface whereby said user may interact with selected ones of a plurality of different life sciences laboratory equipment.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an access control system adapted to maintain privacy of the workspace by restricting access of the workspace to one or more designated users.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a data coupling mechanism adapted to allow a user to transfer data between the workspace and a life sciences related instrument.

7-27. (Canceled)